

**Summary of Public Comments**  
**Lake Worth Inlet (Palm Beach Harbor) Scoping Meeting**  
**January 9, 2007**

*(Please note that this summary reflects points raised by speakers during the scoping meeting, as recorded on flip charts during the meeting itself. It may not include all points made by speakers. Further, these notes are not a complete record of comments; a transcription of the meeting is available for those wishing to review a verbatim account. Minor edits have been made for clarity when needed or requested by speakers after the meeting conclusion.)*

Susan Markin, Town of Palm Beach resident

- Concerned about Port expansion
- House is near Port on Lake Worth
- Safety issues self-imposed due to bringing in large ships
- Area surrounded by small communities
  - Not Miami or Ft Lauderdale
  - Residents expect small Port with small vessels
- Recreational uses important and are economic generators
- Be cautious about Port expansion and impacts on communities
- Manatee impacts are a concern
- Aesthetic impacts are a concern
- Increased surge potential during storm a concern
- Impacts to sand retention in Palm Beach a concern

Peter Elwell, Town of Palm Beach, Town Manager

- Concerned about size and number of ships
  - Study should clearly identify the existing and proposed ship number and sizes and address the impact of larger and increased vessels
- Concerned about impacts to Peanut Island and recreational vessels (especially in Areas C, E and F) (note: Area F added by speaker after meeting)
- Concerned about water quality impacts due to vessels, especially larger vessels
- Change in coastal dynamics are a concern and technical information to address concerns should be included in the study. Concerns include:
  - Tides and tidal surge
  - Flooding
  - Beach erosion

- Blasting – If it becomes a possibility it will need to be studied and the USACE should notify the public immediately and provide expert information to the public
- Beach Erosion/Inlet Management – Want assurances based on extensive study that conditions will not deteriorate
- 100% of beach compatible sand should be placed on the beach

David Rosow, Town of Palm Beach resident

- North Lake Way resident in Palm Beach
- Naval B. G.
- Opposed to Port expansion
- Enjoy watching Port activities
- Should use tugs to guide in ships if needed; don't expand
- Connecticut has spent a lot of money on Port expansion with little result
- Most of Port traffic goes to islands where large ships are not used
- Will not get ships from China
- Plan is over-reaching
- Doesn't want large ships near his moored yacht
- Concerned about impacts to the north end of the island
- Impacts to people environment (recreation) will out-weigh benefits

Royall Victor III – Town of Palm Beach resident

- Shares many of same concerns as prior speakers
- Who wants expended Port? This area is recreational, doesn't understand who wants expansion.
- Is it true that USACE is CEO of Project?
  - Will information be gathered from all parties including federal, state, and local levels?
  - Who is in charge?

John Turner – represents the Teeter Agency

- His client wants expansion, as do most Port users
- Port capacity is connected to regional economy
- Real and immediate problems with existing shipping, not to mention expansion of shipping industry
- This project is about restoration of existing business, not just expansion
- Lost business = increased in consumer goods cost
- Teeter Agency family business impacted by channel constraints
- Hopes USACE takes methodological approach as win/win for business and environmental concerns

Rich Vogel – Vecenergy

- Asphalt and diesel business
- Maintenance and safety concerns with channel
- Favors dredging
- Have to bring in more small vessels instead of less large vessels due to channel constraints
- Problems with doing business caused by channel constraints
- There is a lot of interest in this Port internationally (including in South America)
- Safe, environmental project favorable

#### Dick Bresee

- This will be another disaster – don't need study to determine this
- More water and energy in intracoastal and more beach erosion will occur if project constructed
- Principals of gravity – more material will move down grade
- Singer Island – increase beach grade, more sand will move off beach, residence time of sand on beach will be longer
- This will make beach problems worse – sand will not reach Town of Palm Beach
- Sand carried by current dependent on velocity – will get more erosion
- West Palm Beach and Palm Beach having problems with retaining walls
  - Increased volumes of water could negatively impact retaining walls
- Bigger ships – more energy to move ships, more prop wash, more material fluidized
- Instead of expanding channel should dredge continuously – this will resolve shoaling and lessen severity of events
- Compare Port income to beach income
  - Will Palm Beach be an industrial county or good place to live and for tourists?

#### Dr. Kuvin

- Resident of Palm Beach on north end
- Will be impacted by expansion
- Not navigational safety issue – rather consumer issue
- 40 years ago, USACE here
  - Blasting plus dredging impacted surrounding communities
  - History of inlet and dredging should be addressed by study
  - Residents awarded damages
- Significant environmental damages mentioned in scoping letter
  - Need to be sure that impacts to human species addressed
- 2005 El Paso Gas Seafarer Project
  - Was defeated due to small size of Port

- Other areas more receptive
  - Commerce responded to local interests
- Area still recovering from hurricane damage
  - Residents should not allow another disaster (this project)
- Noise and air pollution
- Vibrations
- Red mite pollution
- Bilge pollution
- Increased flooding threats, particularly in IWW
- Increase in beach erosion
  - Global warming, hurricanes also
- Project will allow bigger and better and larger ships @ 600-900 feet, which can't turn in turning basin
- Increase in homeland security concerns including increase in terrorism threat and more homeland security vessels in channel
- No Action Alternative
  - Residents urge this alternative
  - Will save tax payer dollars
- USACE under pressure – news article quote
  - Need to discipline dysfunctional agency
  - Spend money where reward will out-do risk
- USACE has done good
  - Maintained inlet and placed sand on beach
  - But not done out of charity
  - Is risk worth commercial reward?

#### Terry Gibson

- Represents recreational fishing interest and Surfrider member
- Doesn't understand what most aggressive option would be
- Alt A – Are these jetty expansions?
- Value of fishing, reefs, diving
- Proceed with lots of stakeholder involvement
- Seagrass locations important to value of habitat
  - Those closest to inlet support more juvenile reef fishes especially snappers
  - Proximity to reefs – shorter migration which equates to greater survival of fish
- Seagrass assessments in D, F and G understated in presentation
  - Has seen Johnson's seagrass in 30 feet of water
  - Robust communities in project area
  - Need to look at area larger than 150 feet to assess turbidity impacts
- Don't undermine excellent habitat restoration efforts in vicinity

- Snook spawning in inlet
  - Need to avoid impacts to this activity
  - No activity (such as dredging) should occur during spawning
- Turbidity concerns
- Do not consider recreational boating in safety analysis – this is a safe inlet
- Sand should not be placed in inlet
- Inlet deepening could impact beaches
- Manatees could be impacted
- Sediment quality and impacts should be assessed
  - Impact to fish communities
- Keep process transparent
- Will help with information

#### Lynne Purvis – County resident

- Everglades Earth First representative
- Need for project has not been addressed
  - Before study conducted determine if needed – wants cargo statistics
  - Is project most cost effective approach?
  - Is there better way to get needs met locally?
  - Cost sharing not clear
- Supports all other speakers for No Action Alternatives
- Holistic approach needed
  - Oil needed to ship in foreign goods
  - Global warming, pollution and war should be addressed
- More creative alternatives should be considered
  - Spend money effectively
- Everglades
  - Restoration has been languishing
  - Why allow more impact?
- Will business owners participate in mitigation?
- Use less technical term in environmental presentations

#### Sam Oser

- Before anything done, there will be a study
- His vision – County is going to grow
  - Will have scientific community
  - But also people who need work
- Hopes for win/win situation
- Ports to south are loaded, this Port ideal for expansion
- Growth, progress will happen whether we like it or not
- Meet needs of all people

- Lori Baer best thing to happen to Port
- Quality of life important, but brilliant engineers will study

Dr. Lilja – Town of Palm Beach resident

- Reasons for change
  - 300 ft vessels running aground – valid concern
  - 900 ft vessels in future – concern
- OK to improve channel for existing vessels
  - Dredge before shoaling
- Gulf Stream
  - Not pushing to north
  - Nearshore current flows to south
- Studies on sand differ
  - Get true evaluation of grain size

William Djubin

- In collaboration with Reef Rescue are starting water quality monitoring
- Confused by presentation
  - Is project for existing navigation or to enlarge channel?
  - Are we trying to increase imports or exports?
  - Economic generators in Florida -1 Energy 2 Agriculture and 3 Tourism
  - If expansion is to increase business, has more concerns

Gerald Ward

- Not appropriate to formalize pro or con positions for scoping
- Requests copies of meeting documents and hard copies of DEIS and FEIS (cited rules and regulations)
- Are comments due in next 11 days?
- Study schedule too long, finish by first quarter 2009
  - Same money – citation requires response to this suggestion
- How many pages will EIS be?
  - Should be less than 150 pages to avoid confusing public
- Alternatives
  - 8 alternatives or combinations
  - Need to add “Similar Action Alternatives”
    - Reduce existing depths – do not serve bulk cargo
    - This will open up more berth space
- Between two major Ports – Canaveral and Everglades
- Increase Island trade and containers
- Small ferry and cruise vessels
- Port is niche Port – small Port

- CRA Report almost complete, needs to be incorporated into study
- State comprehensive Plan requires that Port accommodate public needs
  - Use cruise terminal for public
- A1 and A2 don't make sense
- E doesn't make sense – contrary to USACE manuals
- G most economic potential – will use FPL bulkheading
- Ecological impacts minimal
  - It is only because of Port that resources are what they are now today
- Tides and surge
  - 1960's deepening almost doubled tidal range
- Economics should drive study

George Williamson – Cemex (formerly Rinker)

- Construction materials company with two facilities in Palm Beach (cement and aggregate)
- Aggregate business at Port struggling due to channel constraints
- Deeper is better – volumes reduce customer costs
- Supports efforts to deepen
  - 40' good
  - Can substantially increase input
  - Ensure supply to users